



## PRENATAL CARE IN ARIZONA, 2006 FACT SHEET



### OVERVIEW OF PRENATAL CARE IN ARIZONA

It is recommended that all pregnant women receive early prenatal care because the potential health benefits for both mothers and infants. Research has shown that inadequate prenatal care has been associated with increased risk for low birth weight, prematurity, infant mortality (both neonatal and postneonatal), and maternal mortality.<sup>1</sup>

In 2006 in Arizona<sup>2</sup>, 78% of infants were born to women who received prenatal care beginning in the first trimester, and 2% (n=2,401) did not receive any prenatal care. For infants who were born to women receiving early prenatal care, 7% were low birth weight (17% of which were very low birth weight), and 11% were premature. For infants who were born to women with no prenatal care, 15% were low birth weight (4% of which were very low birth weight), and 25% (n=591) were premature.



American Indians were least likely to begin prenatal care in their first trimester (66%), followed by Hispanics (70%) and African Americans (77%). White non-Hispanics and Asians were the most likely to receive early prenatal care (86%).

Women with private insurance were more likely to enter prenatal care in the first trimester (91%) than women on AHCCCS (68%), and women who were paying for the birth themselves (64%). Women with IHS were least likely to receive early prenatal care (59%). Overall, only 2% of births had no prenatal care, compared to 11% of births to women who were paying for the birth themselves.

Women with less than a high school education (less than 12 years) were least likely to have entered prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (64%) compared to women with a high school education (77%). Women with some college (13 or more years of education) were the most likely to enter prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (89%).

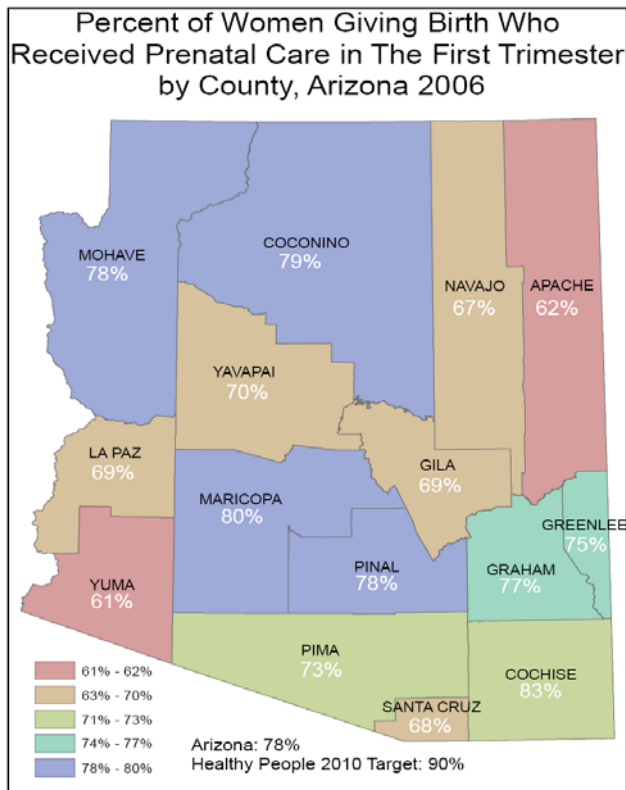
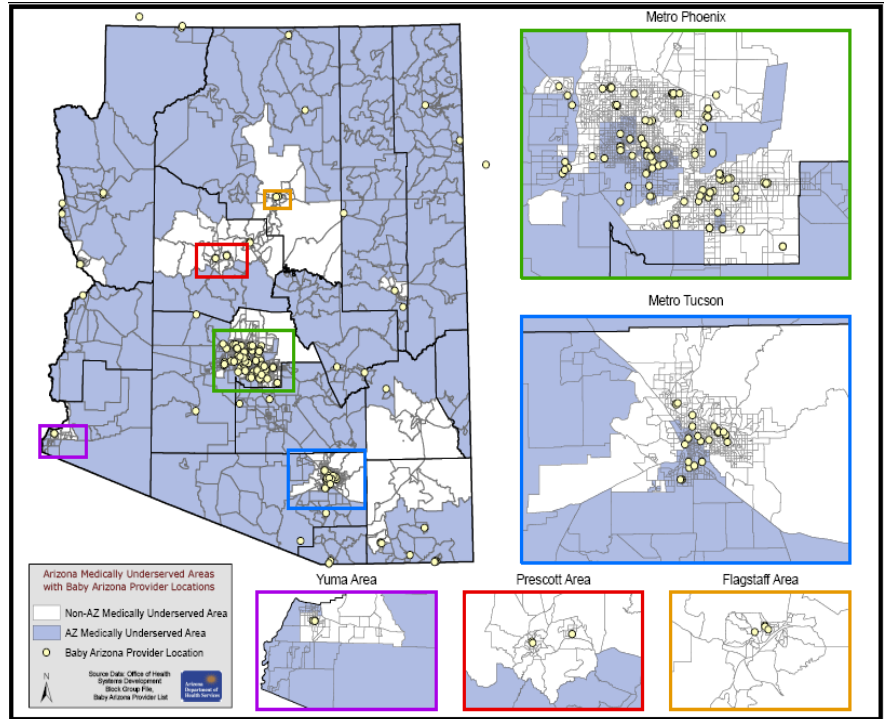
### PRENATAL CARE IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS

Medically underserved areas are designated based on an index that takes into account ambulatory sensitive conditions, provider to population ratio, transportation score, percentage of population below poverty, percentage of uninsured births, low birth weight

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/PRAMS/dataAct2002/prenatal\\_care.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/PRAMS/dataAct2002/prenatal_care.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Note: Births referred to in this paper are births to mothers who were residents of Arizona at the time of the birth.

births, prenatal care, percentage of deaths before the U.S. birth life expectancy, infant mortality rate, and percent minorities, elderly and unemployed. In 2005, 86.7% of women giving birth in medically underserved primary care areas entered prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy. The map to the above shows the location of Baby Arizona Providers and Arizona Medically Underserved Areas.



#### [PRENATAL CARE BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA](#)

As the map to the left demonstrates, the percentage of women entering prenatal care in their first trimester by county ranged from a low of 61% in Yuma County, to a high of 80% in Maricopa County. Overall, 78% of births in Arizona in 2006 were to women who began prenatal care in the first trimester, however, this falls well below the Healthy People 2010 target of 90%.